OUR
FIRST SEX...
LET'S ENJOY IT..
AH!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
OR YOU'LL BITE.
DON'T TALK.
OF THE NEW YEAR.
HAH!?
AH!
AH!
TOTALLY CAPTIVATED BY HAJIN YOO
SCANS/COLOURED- AYAO!

Hey! You! Yes...you! You know Japanese, right?

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Attractive Fascinante

Alluring Attraction, Captivating Fascination

HAPPY
New Year
best wishes,
ATTRACTIVE
fascinate

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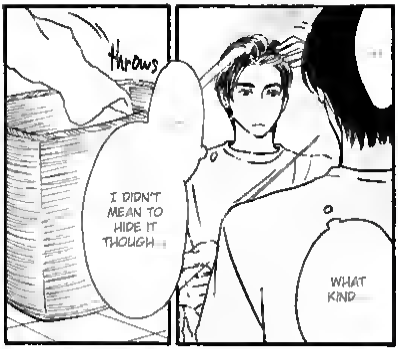
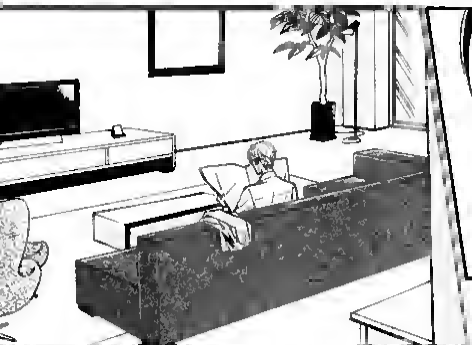
WHENEVER I ATTENDED MY FRIENDS' WEDDINGS I'D THINK THAT...
EVEN THOUGH THINGS AREN'T SO SIMPLE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN...
STUFF LIKE WEDDINGS AND CHILDREN...
DRANK TOO MUCH
LOOKS BAD...
HAVING SUCH A DISTINCT PATH, MOVING INTO THE NEXT STAGE IN LIFE IS REALLY ENVIABLE
! pssst
pat
"OKADA-- YOU TOLD ME..."
"YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE SERIOUSLY NOW."
WHEN AGE CATCHES UP TO YOU IT REALLY SHOWS ON THE FACE... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DRINK

"IT'S REALLY UNBELIEVABLE YOU WERE ALWAYS SO FRIVOLOUS AND SUDDENLY YOU'VE SETTLED DOWN"
"I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW IT, JUST..."
"WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH?"
"SO I'M A LITTLE BOTHERED."

THE SECOND DRINKING SESSION AFTER THE WEDDING


throws
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIDE IT THOUGH...
WHAT KIND...



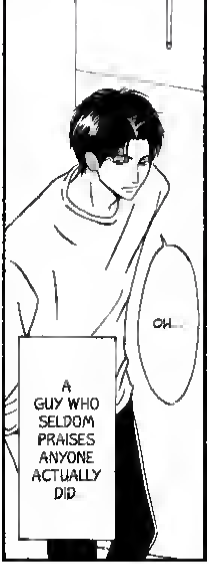
SAKAKI MASAHIKO IS THE OWNER AND COORDINATOR OF AN INTERIOR DESIGN COMPANY.

BEFORE WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER, HE WAS SOMEONE I WANTED VERY MUCH TO WORK WITH...

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT...

WE'D BE IN SUCH A RELATION-SHIP
EH?
ARE YOU GOING OUT ALREADY?
YEAH
SITE VIEWING
Oh
MY SUCCESSOR
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT WITH THE NEW PERSON-IN-CHARGE?
YEAH

KAZUKI
HOW RARE.


A GUY WHO SELDOM PRAISES ANYONE ACTUALLY DID
OH...

CLEAR INSTRUC-TIONS.
SWIFT DECISIONS A BIG HELP

YOU HAVE TO TIDY UP
IF I COME BACK EARLY
AH... YEAH.
What's with the mountain of corrugated cardboard!
COME BACK EARLIER AND TIDY UP YOUR ROOM

I'M LEAVING.

IT'S ALREADY THREE MONTHS! THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR YOU!

SLAM
HAVE A NICE DAY...
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
HE'S REALLY IN A FOUL MOOD
RUSTLE
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT JUST SHOWS THAT MASAHIKO'S TOO BOTHERED BY UNNECESSARY THINGS
RUSTLE
GOING OUT "SERIOUSLY" WITH A "GUY" FOR TWO YEARS...

RECENTLY
THINGS AREN'T GOING ON VERY WELL FOR US
daze
tap
tap
CHIEF OKADA.
Zaa
IT'S BECAUSE IT KEEPS RAINING NON-STOP
IT CAN'T BE HELPED ON NORMAL DAYS. PREPARE DETAILED INFORMATION FOR THE WEEKEND THEN.
I THOUGHT SO.
MAKE IT SPICK AND SPAN
TIDY UP.
YES
CHIEF...
QUIET
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OTHER CLIENTS BESIDES THE APPOINTMENT ONES

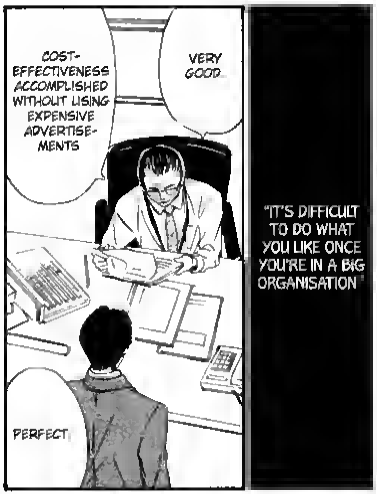
NAKANISHI?
OH SORRY TO LOOK FOR YOU DURING YOUR WORK
THERE IS A CLIENT
NAKANISHI-SAN FROM KATAYAMA ASSOCIATION
Do you know him?
CLATTER
YOU'RE REALLY LIVELY. YOU DRANK SO MUCH LAST NIGHT
I TRAVEL A LOT FOR WORK. IT'S A PREREQUISITE TO START ALERT
COMPARED TO THAT, IT'S REALLY AMAZING HERE. SO IMPRESSIVE. I HESITATED A BIT WHEN I STEPPED IN
HIGH-CLASS CONDOMINIUMS ARE THE BILLBOARD FOR TAKATOO PROPERTY?
PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF SUCH A GALLERY ROOM, IT MUST MEAN YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO A VERY PROMISING CAREER TRACK.
OH WELL BUT IT'S REALLY BORING
BECAUSE THE CONCEPT OR WHATEVER HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
ANYONE CAN DO IT. IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE ME.

EH?
OH WELL IT'S DIFFICULT TO DO WHAT YOU LIKE ONCE YOU'RE IN A BIG ORGANISATION.
HOW RARE FOR YOU TO SAY SUCH THINGS...
THE FUTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU LIKE
...
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE PREVIOUS DEPARTMENT IS MORE CHALLENGING...
IT'S JUST LIKE SOMEONE ELSE TOOK AWAY THE WORK THAT I'VE ACCOMPLISHED TO BE HONEST. I DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL
DO YOU WANT TO BUY THIS ONE AT AZABU?
I CAN'T AFFORD IT, STUPID
NOT THIS ONE. DIDN'T YOU SAY THERE ARE GOOD BUYS FOR SECOND-HAND?
AH
THE RENOVATED ONES AT SETAGAYA.
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME LAST NIGHT THAT YOU COULD HELP ME FIND A NEW HOUSE?
YEAH
ALTHOUGH IT'S LIKE THAT...
AH, OKADA, I CAME HERE FOR THIS

OKADA.
I KNOW YOU DISLIKE PEOPLE MEDDLING IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE, BUT YOU'RE ALREADY THIRTY-FOUR
I KNOW, I KNOW.
DON'T KEEP PLAYING LIKE THE PAST.
EVEN I'VE STARTED TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE.
"YOU'RE LYING."
EH, ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED TOO?
CAN'T I?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I THINK IT'S TIME I START TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE SERIOUSLY.
"HAVE YOU REALLY SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE?"
KAZUKI.
HEY, DON'T SLEEP ALONG THE CORRIDOR.
AN AMAZING WEDDING.
IT SHOULD BE LIKE THAT FOR WEDDING CEREMONIES.
GET UP.
MASA-HIKO.
YEAH...
GO INTO THE ROOM AND SLEEP ON YOUR BED.
SIP

I'M THINKING
YOU'RE LYING
IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE, HOW ABOUT GIVING A SERIOUS THOUGHT ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION TOO?
THE FOOD AND THE SERVICE WERE FABULOUS.
Although it's expensive...
UP UNTIL NOW HAVE YOU REALLY SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

SWISH
STEP
SWISH
I WAS DRUNK AND COMPLIMENTED THE HOTEL AND THE WEDDING BECAUSE I WAS IN A GOOD MOOD
BEHAVING LIKE A KID
HE'S ANNOYED BECAUSE I MENTIONED THE WEDDING?
Ah
ISN'T THAT OKADA?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. WHAT HAPPENED?
SUBMITTING A TERM REPORT
HOW ARE THINGS AT AZABU?
chatter
chatter
THE PROPOSAL YOU MADE BEFORE YOUR TRANSFER
THE FIGURES ARE GENERALLY GOOD AND THE SCALE WAS ENLARGED
I SWITCHED TEAMS TOO FIGHTING FOR SALES EVERY DAY
ha ha ha
THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD OVER THERE SO ENVIOUS
IT'S A BIT TROUBLESOME BECAUSE OF THE ENDLESS RAIN
INDEED NO CLIENTS ON RAINY DAYS

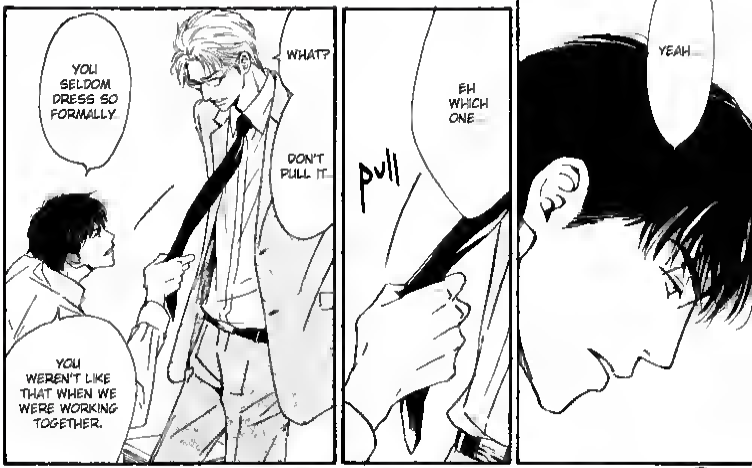

COST-EFFECTIVENESS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT USING EXPENSIVE ADVERTISE-MENTS
VERY GOOD
"IT'S DIFFICULT TO DO WHAT YOU LIKE ONCE YOU'RE IN A BIG ORGANISATION"
PERFECT

EH LOOKING SO HAPPY
EXACTLY
THE BUDGET IS A LOT TOO IT'S REALLY ENVIOUS
And maby beauties

"THE FUTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU LIKE."
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
IT WAS RIGHT TO PROMOTE YOU.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT RESULTS.
YES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
SOMEHOW, THE MORE I EXCEL AT WORK THE MORE I FIND IT HARD TO BREATHE
SIGH
COME TO THINK OF IT I WANTED TO TAKE ON BIG PROJECTS WHEN I JUST JOINED THE COMPANY

MASAHIKO AND THE REST AREN'T AROUND
PROBABLY TO THE SITE
KNOCK
HE LOOKED SO HAPPY
IT'S FINE WITHOUT ME AROUND, HUH
WHAT'S THIS.
THE ONE INSIDE THE ROOM SHOULD BE ME

SUCH COOPED UP FEELING...
I'M HOME...
KAZUKI?
OPEN
HEY, KAZUKI
ARE YOU IN?
WELCOME BACK...
What's going on?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE TIDYING OR MESSING UP.
DINNER?
NOT YET.
GOING OUT TO EAT? OR DELIVERY


YEAH...
EH WHICH ONE...
pull
WHAT?
DON'T PULL IT.
YOU SELDOM DRESS SO FORMALLY.
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THAT WHEN WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER.

AH...
THE SCALE THIS TIME IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT
HMM...
WHAT IS IT...
SOMETHING HAPPENED?
NOTHING

YOU'RE LYING
AREN'T YOU DOING WELL WITH YOUR WORK?
I'LL HELP YOU IF YOU REALLY WANT TO TIDY UP.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
MY JOB'S FINE.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ANGRY.
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY THEN?
I'M NOT

RUSTLE
YOU LOOKED HAPPY WHEN YOU WEREN'T WITH ME...
I'VE BEEN GOING ALONG WITH YOU WHAT EXACTLY...
YOU'RE ANGRY OVER SOMETHING
SINCE LAST NIGHT...NO YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE STARING LIVING TOGETHER
WHAT...
CLATTER
LET'S BREAK UP THEN.
WHY DID IT SUDDENLY JUMP TO THAT.
SAYING BREAKING UP SO SUDDENLY IS A BIT...
NO I DIDN'T JUST JUMP TO THAT...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT
I...

OKADA-SAN.
SINCE I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU...
I KEEP THINKING IF THIS WAS A MISTAKE AFTER ALL.

* Hans Jørgen Wegner was a innovative and prolific Danish furniture designer best known for his many chairs of genuine craftsmanship.

KAIZUKI...
Eh...
I'VE BEEN STAYING HERE SINCE I WAS A STUDENT. MOVING IS TROUBLE-SOME...
HEY.
WHEN DID YOU START LIVING IN THIS APART-MENT...
Don't put old newspapers on top of Wegner*
DO YOU WANT TO STAY TOGETHER?
I'M THINKING OF MOVING SO...
SURE...
NO...
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
I DON'T MIND STAYING WITH YOU, SAKAKI-SAN.
Here.
I DID.
GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT.

YOU ALWAYS JUST THINK ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
YOU NEVER REALLY THINK ABOUT IT AT ALL.
THE MEANING OF THAT SENTENCE AND HIS FEELINGS...
I TOTALLY CAST IT ASIDE WHILE I INDULGED IN THE HAPPINESS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
THAT'S A HORRIBLE FACE.
TOGETHER WITH MY BELONGINGS AND STUFF THEM DEEP INSIDE THOSE BOXES....

I HAVE SOME PROBLEMS LATELY...
AND HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING MUCH.
EH, SO YOU DO HAVE PROBLEMS.
THAT'S HARSH. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS.
YOU ARE A NICE GUY, BUT SOMEHOW, YOU'RE UNAFFECTED BY WHATEVER OTHERS DO.
Flip
Flip
This one looks good
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER ONCE, I WANTED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WITH YOU?
YEAH
I THOUGHT THIS GUY ACCEPTS ANYTHING
BUT HE NEVER THINKS ABOUT IT AT ALL

ACTUALLY, YOU WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT MY CONCERNS AT ALL.
YOU HAD A DIFFERENT GIRLFRIEND EVERY TIME WE MET.
THEY MUST HAVE LEFT YOU BECAUSE OF THAT.
BUT ... TO MEET AGAIN AFTER SO LONG ...
TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND THINGS LIKE HAVING MIXED FEELINGS ... I FEEL BETTER.
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE SERIOUSLY NOW, RIGHT?
MAYBE BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU DID CHANGE A LITTLE
flip

COME TO THINK OF IT. I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING WHEN WE STARTED GOING OUT
flip flip flip
SAYING I STEPPED INTO HIS WORLD WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT
FOR TWO YEARS—
FROM MASAHIKO'S POINT OF VIEW, AM I STILL THE SAME?
YOU DID CHANGE.

IT'S EVENING AND YET THERE ISN'T ANY CLIENT.

HERE
Thud
WHAT IS IT?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED FOR RAINY DAYS
WHAT
CLATTER
ALL THE LINTS WERE BOOKED
PROBABLY WOULD BE ALL SOLD OUT
EH... SPECIALLY CAME OVER
IF YOU'RE WORKING WELL WITH THE CURRENT IN-CHARGE
I HOPE TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS BECAUSE IT'S YOUR PROPOSAL

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT OUR COMPANY GETS TO HANDLE THIS PROJECT TOTALLY
I DON'T WANT YOUR PERFORMANCE REVIEW TO BE AFFECTED BECAUSE OF ANY FAILURE
THAT'S ALL.
Zaa
SAY SOMETHING.
SAYING THAT...
I NEVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING. PROBABLY IT'S TRUE.

INDEED, I ALMOST NEVER DO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING SERIOUSLY OR WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING
I'M UNAFFECTED BY WHATEVER OTHERS DO.
NOT SERIOUS AT ALL...
JUST NOW, A FRIEND SAID THAT TOO.
EH?
BUT...
I DON'T FEEL THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT

WANTING TO BE TOGETHER... FEELING HAPPY...

FEELING AT EASE WHEN HOLDING EACH OTHER...

TRIVIAL THINGS LIKE THESE YET VERY IMPORTANT... ALL OF THEM...

I'LL LOOK AT IT RIGHT NOW. THERE AREN'T ANY MORE CLIENTS TO MEET WITH TODAY.
THANK YOU FOR SPECIALLY BRINGING THIS OVER.
GRAB
SORRY
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT WORK
NN.

BAM
NN
NN
MASA
RELAX
NO ONE SAW US
KAZUKI.

CAN YOU COME HOME EARLIER TODAY?
SINCE...
IT'LL KEEP RAINING UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.
Zara
NN...
AH

NO
NN
NN
haa.
TOLD YOU NO
grab
haa
haa
MY HAND NO STRENGTH
stroke
NN!
haa
HAA!

NN..
HAA
stick
WAIT
AH!
stick
haa
haa.
AH!
NN
haa.
haa
HAA
squeeze
NN
AH ..
ALREADY
haa.
AH!
I THINK ...
I'M NOT SOLELY RESPONSIBLE WHEN SOMETIMES THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL FOR US.
haa.
haa.
rub

NUMEROUS LINES ISOLATE HIM FROM OTHERS
CLEANING AWAY ONCE DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE TOTALLY GONE
BETWEEN HIM AND OTHERS... GAY AND HETERO... MANY OTHER REASONS...
MASAHIKO DRAWS LINES
IT'S COLD
SOON
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT
THERE
NN
AH!
slips
slick
haa
haa
haa
haa
haa
SEEMS
TODAY IS A BIT DIFFERENT AH AH
AH!
NN
NN
squish
squish
SORRY, I WAS TOO LOUD
haa

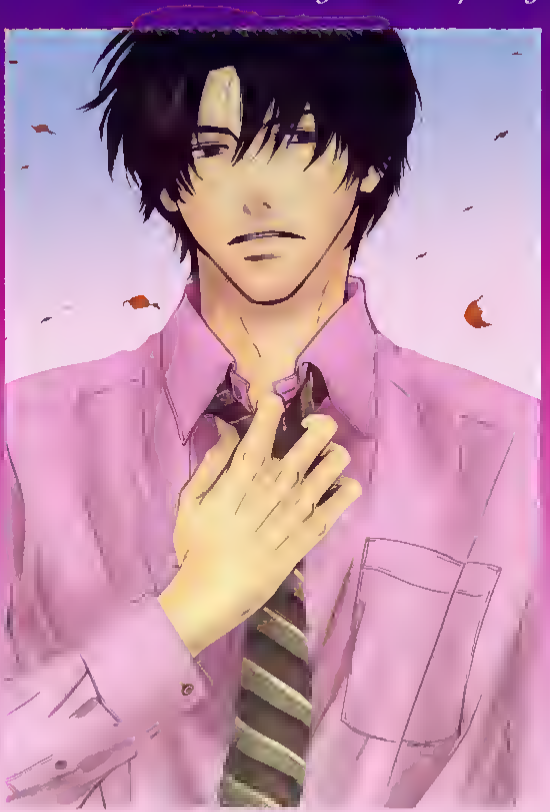
I LOVE YOU.
MASAHIKO
I LOVE YOU.
IT'S FINE JUST BE LOUD.
BECAUSE THIS ISN'T LIKE THAT CHEAP APARTMENT YOU HAD BEFORE.
Eh I don't like hearing that.
IF I DID CHANGE A LITTLE...
MASAHIKO SHOULD HAVE CHANGED TOO
SHOULD...
HAVE CHANGED EVEN MORE.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO QUIT SMOKING?

I'M THINKING ABOUT THINGS
I'M THINKING IF I RESIGN...
WILL YOUR COMPANY EMPLOY ME?
I DID THINK ABOUT IT SERIOUSLY.
UNTIL THE FUTURE AND FOREVER... I THOUGHT A LOT
ABOUT ALL THE WAYS THAT CAN LET US BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
THE FUTURE... IS STILL LONG
double line END

TWO YEARS LATER,
SAKAKI AND OKADA'S RELATIONSHIP WILL...
double line
[After a Storm – Extra]

Attractive Fascinante

Alluring Attraction, Captivating Fascination



Arashi no Ato (After a Storm) by Hidaka Shouko

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